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7 DEC 1955

FRENCH ELECTIONS

- I. Prospects for outcome 2 Jan elections still unclear, since party alliances not yet announced (must be on record by 10 Dec).
 - A. Electoral law permits parties to "affiliate" (i.e., have votes cast for all of them counted as a single unit).
 - B. Any single-party slate or "affiliation" getting majority wins all seats in its district.
 1. If no majority, seats are allotted by one or another complex system of proportional representation.
 2. Virtually impossible for any single party slate to win majority (it happened in only one of France's 95 districts in '51 election).

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3. In '51, "affiliated" lists won majority in 38 districts; in 56 others, seats were allotted by proportional representation.

II. 28 different French parties already reported entering candidates for Jan race on "national" basis (i.e., in more than 30 districts), which is prerequisite for "affiliation."

- A. Number includes representatives of Poujade's "anti-tax" movement.
- B. Two different groups of Radical Socialists reported, in anticipation party split over Mendes-France feud with Faure.
- C. Socialist National Council on 6 Dec passed resolution excluding "affiliation" with Communists, despite fact that over one third of 3,000 delegates favored such alliance.
- D. Mendes-France will try to line-up Socialist candidates on basis Socialist resolution giving his campaign tacit approval.

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E. Although PCF may improve its position in National Assembly, Communist participation in French government formed after Jan elections is most improbable.

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